

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3276

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: GREEK SECURITY POLICE ARREST 36

REF: ATHENS 1619 AND ATHENS 1088

1. UNDER SECRETARY FOR PRESS AND INFORMATION KARAKOSTAS ANNOUNCED TO NEWSMEN MAY 4 THAT ATHENS SECURITY POLICE ARRESTED 36 PERSONS FOR SUBVERSIVE AND "ANTI-NATIONAL ACTIVITIES." ALL WERE MEMBERS OF TWO ORGANIZATIONS, "REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST MOVEMENT OF GREECE" (EKKE) AND "ANTI-FASCIST ANTI-IMPERALIST STUDENT FACTION OF GREECE" (AASPE). KARAKOSTAS DESCRIBED ORGANIZATIONS AS "CONSPIRATORIAL AND COMMUNIST" AND ASSERTED BOTH GROUPS WHICH WERE ACTIVE IN ATHENS AREA WERE DIRECTED AND BACKED BY GERMAN COMMUNIST PARTY. UNDER SECRETARY ALSO SAID THAT ACCORDING TO EVIDENCE FOUND IN CONFISCATED ARCHIVES AND FROM CONFESSIONS OF MEMBERS OF TWO GROUPS, TWO OTHER FRONT ORGANIZATIONS, "WORKERS CLASS SOLIDARITY" (ETA) AND "ANTI-FASCITS, ANTI-IMPERIALIST STUDENT MOVEMENT (AASP), WERE SET UP IN WEST BERLIN BY FORMER MEMBERS OF UNITED DEMOCRATIC LEFT (EDA) AND GREEK COMMUNIST PARTY (KKE). KARAKOSTAS ADDED THAT, WITH SUPPORT OF WEST BERLIN COMMUNIST

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PARTY, BRANCHES OF TWO ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN ATHENS WERE

ESTABLISHED IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES INCLUDING FRANCE AND ITALY.

2. UNDER SECRETARY'S STATEMENT NOTED FOURTEEN MORE MEMBERS OF TWO COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS ARE STILL SOUGHT BY SECURITY AUTHORITIES. STATEMENT DESCRIBED GROUP LEADER STRANGOS AS ATTEMPTING TO FIRE AT POLICE AT TIME OF ARREST AT HEADQUARTERS NEAR POLYTECHNION UNIVERSITY. PRESS ACCOUNTS INCLUDED PHOTOGRAPHS OF WEAPONS, CAMERAS, OFFICE EQUIPMENT, FORGED PASSPORTS, ETC. CONFISCATED DURING RAID. KARAKOSTAS REMARKED THAT TWO ORGANIZATIONS HAD PRIVATE AUTO SUPPLIED BY COMMUNISTS IN PARIS AND BUDGET OF 1.5 MILLION DRACHMAES (\$50,000) SPENT ON MAINTAINING HIDEOUTS. HE EXPLAINED THAT FOLLOWING TRAINING OF MEMBERS OF TWO COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS ABROAD, MEMBERS WERE SENT TO GREECE TO SET UP BRANCHES IN ATHENS AND THESSALONIKI WHERE THEY SOUGHT "TO CORRODE WORKERS AND STUDENTS TO OVERTHROW SOCIAL ORDER BY USE OF ARMED VIOLENCE IN ORDER TO IMPOSE COMMUNIST DICTATORSHIP." KARAKOSTAS STATED THAT TWO SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS PLAYED MAJOR ROLE IN POLYTECHNION RIOTS NOVEMBER 17, 1973 AND "CREATED AMONG STUDENTS SPIRIT OF HATRED AND REVOLUTIONARY CONFRONTATION WITH POLICE." KARAKOSTAS SAID PETROS STRANGOS DIRECTED ENTIRE POLYTECHNION OPERATION INCLUDING SELECTING SLOGANS "POPULAR RULE," "IMMEDIATE UPRISING," "DOWN WITH ARMY" AND "OUT OF NATO." HE CONCLUDED THAT EVIDENCE INDICATES TWO CONSPIRATORIAL ORGANIZATIONS PENETRATED AND TOOK OVER POLYTECHNION EVENTS OF LAST NOVEMBER EXPLOITING "ENTHUSIASM OF INNOCENT STUDENTS, TURNING A MANIFESTATION FOR PROMOTION OF STUDENT DEMANDS INTO BLOODY UPRISING." GOVERNMENT STATEMENT PROVIDED NAMES OF THOSE ARRESTED (POUCHED SEPARATELY). NEARLY ALL ARRESTED ARE STUDENTS OR IN STUDENT AGE BRACKET.

3. COMMENT: MAY 4 ROUNDUP REPRESENTS THIRD MAJOR ARREST BY GREEK SECURITY AUTHORITIES. TWO EARLIER ROUNDUPS IN FEBRUARY (ATHENS 1088) AND MARCH (ATHENS 1619) ALSO INVOLVED COMMUNIST/LEFTISTS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN POLYTECHNION RIOTS. AASPE MEMBERS WERE ARRESTED ALSO IN FEBRUARY ROUNDUP BUT EKKE DID NOT APPEAR AMONG SUBVERSIVE ORGANIZATIONS MENTIONED IN EARLIER ARRESTS, NOR DID "FRONT ORGANIZATION", ETA AND AASP, WHICH MAY BE SAME AS AASPE. GOG STATEMENT, AS IN OFFICIAL STATEMENTS ON TWO EARLIER OCCASIONS, CONTINUES TO LINK COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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POLYTECHNION EVENTS. HOWEVER, THIS IS FIRST TIME COMMUNIST ORGANIZATIONS IN GERMANY, FRANCE, AND ITALY HAVE BEEN CHARGED WITH SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES CONNECTED WITH NOVEMBER 17, 1973 RIOTS.
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